

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 083034
ORIGIN SY-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:A/SY/OPS/FO:WDCLARKED:DB

APPROVED BY:A/SY/OPS/FO - MKDALTON, ACTING

-----060673 312133Z /64

R 311526Z MAR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 083034

FOR RSS

FOLLOWING REPEAT KABUL 2297 ACTION SECSTATE INFO TEHRAN AND USIA
DATED MAR 27, 1978.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 2297

STATE FOR A/SY/FO AND A/SY/CC FROM RSO

USIA FOR SECURITY

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, AF, PINS

SUBJECT: TERRORIST THREAT LETTER DIRECTED AGAINST AMERICANS AT
KABUL

1. ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 25, 1978, A USIS LOCAL EMPLOYEE DIS-
COVERED ON THE FLOOR NEXT TO HIS DESK IN THE USIS LIBRARY A THREAT
LETTER DIRECTED AGAINST THE AMERICAN CENTER AND AMERICANS IN KABUL.
THE LETTER, NEATLY HANDWRITTEN IN VERY GOOD PERSIAN (WITH THE EX-
CEPTION OF A WORD IN ENGLISH AND A DATE IN WESTERN STYLE), PUR-
PORTS TO BE FROM AN ORGANIZATION CALLED THE "CHARIKA-YE-FEDA'I-
YE-KHALQ" ("PEOPLE'S SACRIFICE GUERRILLAS-PSG"). (WE NOTE THAT THERE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 083034

IS A TERRORIST GROUP IN IRAN THAT USES THIS SAME NAME.) THE LETTER
SPECIFICALLY ATTACKS THE U.S. FOR ITS ALLEGED SUPPORT OF ISRAEL AND
FOR BACKING ISRAEL IN ITS RECENT ATTACK ON LEBANON. THIS GROUP CLAIMS
TO BACK THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO) ALL OVER THE
WORLD. THE LETTER WARNS THE USIS CULTURAL CENTER TO CLOSE DOWN
EFFECTIVE MARCH 30, "AS A SIGN OF FRIENDSHIP" TO THE PEOPLE'S
SACRIFICE GUERRILLAS -- "OTHERWISE THE PSG WILL BEGIN AN ARMED

ATTACK AGAINST AMERICAN CITIZENS IN KABUL AS OF THIS DATE." THE USIS LOCAL ON WHOSE DESK THE THREAT WAS LEFT WAS DESCRIBED "AS A DIRTY AGENT OF CIA," WHO WILL BE KILLED IF HE DOES NOT DELIVER THE LETTER. THE TEXT OF THE LETTER WAS SUPERIMPOSED BY THE WORDS "MARCH 30," WRITTEN SEVERAL TIMES IN LARGE LETTERS WITH A RED PEN. WE NOTE THAT THIS IS THE SAME DATE POST-TABRIZ VIOLENCE IS EXPECTED IN IRAN.

2. THE LETTER ALSO REFERS TO "THE GREAT LEADER, MAO TSE-GUNG" AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF LENIN AND ARAFAT WERE ENCLOSED. "KHALQ" IS ALSO THE NAME OF THE SMALL PRO-SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY OF AFGHANISTAN. THE WORD "KHALQ" MEANS "MASSES" AND IS BY NO MEANS A MONOPOLY OF THE KHALQ COMMUNIST PARTY. GIVEN THE LATTER'S REFERENCES TO MAO TSE-TUNG, WE CONSIDER IT UNLIKELY THAT THERE IS ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN THE LOCAL PRO-SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY AND THIS PARTICULAR ORGANIZATION. THE LETTER DEALS EXCLUSIVELY WITH THE ISSUES OF PALESTINE AND ISRAEL -- PROBABLY INDICATING THAT THE MESSAGE STEMS FROM PALESTINIANS OR ARABS (INCIDENTALLY, THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 15 TO 20 PALESTINIAN STUDENTS IN KABUL). ANY NATIVE AFGHAN GROUPING WOULD PROBABLY HAVE INCLUDED OTHER REGIONAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THEM, SUCH AS EXCORIATING THE SHAH OF IRAN AND OTHER REGIONAL "ENEMIES." THIS IS THE FIRST THREAT AGAINST AMERICANS HERE BY PALESTINIAN GROUPS IN OUR MEMORY.

3. THE FULL TEXT OF THE TERRORISTS' LETTER FOLLOWS IN SEPTTEL.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 083034

4. THE EMBASSY AS TAKEN THE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONS: THE U.S. MISSION'S SECURITY WATCH COMMITTEE MET MARCH 26, 1978. THE FOLLOWING SWC RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE BEEN ACTED UPON:

A. AMBASSADOR ELIOT MET WITH ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER ABDUL SAMAD GHANUS ON MARCH 26 CONCERNING THE THREAT. THIS WAS FOLLOWED UP BY A LOWER-LEVEL MEETING IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WITH EMBASSY OFFICIALS TO WHICH A REP FROM THE GOA INTELLIGENCE SERVICE WAS PRESENT.

B. THE AFGHAN SECURITY POLICE HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED. THE RSO HAS MET WITH MAJOR WAHIDI, DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR SECURITY, INTERIOR MINISTRY.

C. THE MARINE SECURITY GUARD DETACHMENT AND THE LOCAL U.S. MISSION GUARD FORCES HAVE BEEN PLACED ON INCREASED ALERT.

D. SECURITY PROCEDURES FOR THE PUBLIC-ACCESS AREAS OF USIS, USAID, AND THE EMBASSY HAVE BEEN INCREASED.

E. ADDITIONAL SECURITY PROTECTION IS BEING ARRANGED FOR THE RESIDENCES OF SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS.

F. AMERICAN AND LOCAL EMPLOYEES ARE BEING NOTIFIED OF THE THREAT AND ADVISED TO TAKE PROPER PRECAUTIONS.

G. THE RSO IS CONTACTING OTHER APPROPRIATE EMBASSIES IN KABUL, INCLUDING THOSE OF IRAN AND EGYPT, TO DISCUSS THE THREAT.

H. THE EMBASSY IS CONVENING A MEETING ON MARCH 28 OF REPS OF THE PRIVATE AMERICAN COMMUNITY TO BRIEF THEM OF THE THREAT AND TO PROVIDE SUGGESTIONS ON PRECAUTIONARY SECURITY MEASURES.

5. THE AFGHAN AUTHORITIES ARE TAKING THE THREAT SERIOUSLY AND ARE BEING COMPLETELY COOPERATIVE IN RESPONDING TO OUR REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL SECURITY.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 083034

6. REQUEST: WE WOULD APPRECIATE WHATEVER INFORMATION CAN BE PROVIDED CONCERNING THE PEOPLE'S SACRIFICE GUERRILLAS.

7. DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT TO OTHER POSTS AS DESIRED.
ELIOT UNQUOTE COOPER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CITIZEN PROTECTION, THREATS, ALLEGATIONS, PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE083034
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: A/SY/OPS/FO:WDCLARKED:DB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780140-0991
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978032/aaaaabkj.tel
Line Count: 142
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e75081bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SY
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3187627
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TERRORIST THREAT LETTER DIRECTED AGAINST AMERICANS AT KABUL
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, AF, USIA
To: HONG KONG
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e75081bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014